

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

USDEL AQABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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TOSEC 304

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT:CYPRUS SITUATION - NOON PRESS BRIEFING

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING
FEBRUARY 14 RE CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS:

QUOTE: Q: WITH THE CANCELLATION OF THE PLANNED MEETING
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BETWEEN GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND SECRETARY

KISSINGER, WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC ATTITUDE, OR ACTION OR INACTION, IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION?

A: WE REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ALL OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THAT QUESTION. I DON'T THINK, AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE, I REALLY CAN GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE CONTACTS OR DISCUSSIONS.

Q: CAN YOU SPELL OUT WHICH ARE ALL OF THE PARTIES? DO YOU REALLY MEAN BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS?

A: I WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE PARTIES.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE MEETING BETWEEN BITSIOS AND THE SECRETARY?

A: AS FAR AS THE CALLING OFF OF THE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND THE SECRETARY IN BONN ON SUNDAY, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WAS ASKED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN ATHENS IN VIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENTS OF YESTERDAY.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A POSITION ON THE PROTEST BEING CARRIED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY GREECE AND CYPRUS?

A: WELL, OBVIOUSLY, IF THE GREEK AND CYPRUS GOVERNMENTS WISH TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS -- AS IS THEIR RIGHT AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS -- THIS IS A MATTER FOR THEM TO DETERMINE.

FOR OUR PART, AS WE SAID HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT AND AS THE SECRETARY SAID, WE REGRETTED THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ACTION.

Q: YOU ALSO SEEMED TO IMPLY A LESSENING OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ROLE AS A MEDIATOR IN THIS DISPUTE IN YOUR STATEMENT YESTERDAY. AT LEAST, THAT WAS MY IMPRESSION.

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A: ...THAT CERTAINLY WASN'T THE IMPRESSION. I THINK WE SAID BOTH THE SECRETARY, AND I BELIEVE I SAID -- THAT - THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS UTMOST TO FURTHER THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION.

Q: WELL, AS I RECALL, THE LAST TWO SENTENCES...WERE PUT IN THE PAST TENSE AND USED THE WORDS REGRETTABLY WE HAD TRIED TO PREVENT THIS KIND OF THING FROM COMING

TO PASS.

A: WELL I THINK WHAT I WAS REFERRING TO WITH RESPECT TO THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION IS THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE SECRETARY WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND ESENBEL -- THAT THESE RECENT EVENTS HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE THESE MEETINGS.

BUT, AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO REPEAT WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY. HE SAID -- AND WE HAD THIS POSTED ON THE BOARD, SO I'LL READ IT QUICKLY: "WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES, TWO ALLIES WHOM WE VALUE, TO RETURN TO THE PATH OF NEGOTIATION. THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND TO ENABLE ALL PARTIES TO FIND A SOLUTION BASED ON JUSTICE AND DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT."

I DON'T THINK THAT'S ANY LACK OF INTEREST ON OUR PART.

Q: HAS THE UNITED STATES REPLIED, OR DO YOU HAVE A REPLY TO THE CYPRIOT NOTE WHICH WAS PRESENTED LAST TUESDAY OF PROTESTING THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DECISION TO GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES IN CYPRUS?

A: WE RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT ON FEBRUARY 7TH WHICH, AS YOU SAID, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION'S AUTHORIZING OF CITIZENSHIP FOR MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH FORCES NOW THERE, FOR FAMILIES OF TURKS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE CYPRUS FIGHTING LAST JULY AND AUGUST, AND FOR THOSE WHO SERVED WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOT UNDERGROUND SINCE 1958.

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THAT IS A SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS OF THE NOTE.

NOW, AS FAR AS OUR OWN REPLY, WE HAVE NOT REPLIED TO THAT NOTE. IT IS STILL BEING STUDIED.

Q: WHY SHOULD THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT ADDRESS SUCH A NOTE TO YOU? WHAT DO THEY WANT? THEY CERTAINLY SAID SOMETHING IN THE NOTE. SHOULD THE UNITED STATES PREVENT THIS?

A: WELL, I THINK AS FOR THE REASONS AS TO WHY THEY ADDRESS IT TO US -- I THINK THAT QUESTION OUGHT TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT.

Q: WELL, YOU TOLD US, IN SURPRISING DETAILS -- WHICH I APPRECIATE -- THE CONTENTS OF THE NOTE, BUT YOU DIDN'T TELL WHAT I ASSUME IS THE CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH, SAYING: "DO SOMETHING" -- OR WHATEVER.

A: THE ONLY THING I CAN REALLY SAY NOW IS THAT WE'RE STUDYING THE NOTE THAT THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT GAVE US ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q: YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MORE REACTION TODAY TO THE ACTION YESTERDAY THAT VIRTUALLY DIVIDED CYPRUS IN HALF, BEYOND WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY?

A: WELL, I SAID THIS MORNING -- I SAID JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO -- THAT WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION.

Q: YOU ALSO GOT A NOTE FROM TURKEY, YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY --

A: YES.

Q: -- I THINK TWO DAYS AGO. YOU SAID YOU ARE STUDYING IT. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING MORE ABOUT THAT?

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A: NO; NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY ON THAT.

Q: DID THE UNITED STATES HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERS WERE GOING TO DECLARE A SEPARATE STATE, OR WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKEN BY SURPRISE?

A: THAT QUESTION WAS ASKED ME YESTERDAY, AND I SAID THAT I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF THAT ACTION.

Q: THE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER, OF COURSE HAD PUBLICLY STATED -- ON FEBRUARY 6TH, I BELIEVE -- THAT HE WAS ADVOCATING SUCH A MOVE. I THINK HE PUBLICLY ADVOCATED SUCH A MOVE.

A: I THINK THE QUESTION WAS MORE: HAD WE BEEN OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN HE DID.

AND THE ANSWER TO THAT IS: I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY ADVANCE NOTICE.

WE CERTAINLY DO FOLLOW ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
THAT ANY OF THE PARTIES MAKE TO THAT QUESTION.

Q: DID WE HAVE ANY NOTICE FROM OUR AMBASSADOR IN CYPRUS
THAT THIS WAS FORTHCOMING?

A: I DON'T KNOW. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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